

Introduced \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Hearing \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

## County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2008 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 7

### Bill No. 47 -2008

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT amending provisions of the County Code that regulate electrical work; clarifying work that can be performed by certain homeowners; adopting the National Electrical Code for 2008 and local amendments thereto; and generally relating to the electrical requirements in Howard County.

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Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2008. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2008 and Passed \_\_\_\_, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008 at \_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Sheila M. Tolliver, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive \_\_\_\_\_, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Ulman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **Section 1. *Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that  
2 *Section 3.214 “Adoption of National Electrical Code” of Subtitle 2 “Electrical*  
3 *Regulations” of Title 3 “Buildings” of the Howard County Code is hereby repealed.*

4  
5 **Section 2. *And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County,  
6 *Maryland, that Section 3.203 “License required to do electrical work” of Subtitle 2*  
7 *“Electrical Regulations” of Title 3 “Buildings” of the Howard County Code is amended*  
8 *to read as follows:*

9  
10 **Title 3. Buildings.**

11 **Subtitle 2. Electrical Regulations.**

12  
13 **Section 3.203. License required to do electrical work.**

14 (a) *Electrical Work Performed by an Individual:* Except as exempted by (c) of this  
15 section, an individual may not do electrical work unless licensed to do so pursuant to this  
16 subtitle or unless under the supervision of an individual licensed to do so pursuant to this  
17 subtitle.

18 (b) *Electrical Work Performed by a Firm or Corporation:* Except as exempted by (c) of  
19 this section, a firm or corporation may not do electrical work unless its principal(s) are  
20 licensed to do so pursuant to this subtitle or unless it employs an individual licensed to do  
21 so.

22 (c) *Exemptions:* The following individuals, firms or corporations are exempt from the  
23 licensing requirements of this subtitle:

- 24 (1) *Utility companies:* Utility companies regulated by the Public Service  
25 Commission of Maryland or contractors working for utility companies  
26 when doing electrical work on equipment owned and maintained by the  
27 utility company on its own premises or the customer's premises.
- 28 (2) *Radio and TV:* Radio and television transmitting stations, licensed and  
29 commissioned by the Federal Communications Commission's regulations.
- 30 (3) *Federal or state employees or their agents:* Employees of the United  
31 States government or employees of the State of Maryland only when

engaged in the performance of their official duties. Contractors or servicemen engaged by the United States government or by the State of Maryland to do electrical work on federal or state-owned premises or equipment.

(4) *Homeowners, minor repairs:* Single-family homeowners engaged in the repair or replacement of portable appliances, lighting fixtures, fuses, lamps or sockets or the making of other minor repairs at existing outlets in the homeowner's residence.

(5) *Homeowners, changes to wiring:* Single-family homeowners making changes to wiring in the homeowner's residence ONLY IF PERFORMING WORK ON A 120 VOLT, 15 AND 20 AMP BRANCH CIRCUIT AS FOLLOWS: [[Before making such changes, the homeowner shall obtain written permission from the department and shall submit an electrical application for approval. A change to wiring performed by a homeowner is subject to inspection by the building official.]]

(I) A HOMEOWNER MAY PERFORM WORK AFTER:

A. PASSING, WITH A SCORE OF 70% OR GREATER, A WRITTEN EXAM ADMINISTERED BY THE HOWARD COUNTY CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR; AND

B. OBTAINING A HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL PERMIT;

(II) IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL PERMIT, A HOMEOWNER SHALL PROVIDE, AT OR BEFORE THE EXAM:

A. A WRITTEN NARRATIVE EXPLANATION OF WORK THE HOMEOWNER WISHES TO PERFORM THEMSELVES; AND

B. A DRAWING ON 8.5 X 11 PAPER DETAILING WIRE TYPE, WIRE LOCATION, THE NUMBER OF DEVICES, THE TYPE OF DEVICES, AND THE LOCATION OF DEVICES; AND

(III) A CHANGE TO WIRING PERFORMED BY A HOMEOWNER IS SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.

(6) *Manufacture or assembly of electrical equipment:* An individual, firm or corporation engaged in the manufacture or assembly of electrical

equipment made by that individual, firm or corporation or made for that individual, firm or corporation.

*Section 3. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that Section 3.214 "Adoption of National Electrical Code" is added to Subtitle 2 "Electrical Regulations" of Title 3 "Buildings" of the Howard County Code to read as follows:*

**SECTION 3.214. ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE.**

(A) (1) THE 2008 EDITION (NFPA 70) OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, WITH AMENDMENTS AS LISTED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IS HEREBY ADOPTED AS THE ELECTRICAL CODE FOR HOWARD COUNTY, AS IF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE WERE SET OUT IN FULL IN THIS SECTION.

(2) A PERSON PERFORMING OR CAUSING THE PERFORMANCE OF ELECTRICAL WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE AND TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE ADOPTED IN TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

(3) IF A CONFLICT EXISTS BETWEEN THE HOWARD COUNTY BUILDING CODE AND THE HOWARD COUNTY ELECTRICAL CODE, THE CODE REQUIRING THE HIGHER STANDARD SHALL GOVERN.

(B) THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS MODIFY CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ADOPTED CODE:

(1) *SECTION 90.4. ENFORCEMENT.* ADD A SENTENCE AT THE END OF THIS SECTION AS FOLLOWS: "IF THERE IS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS SECTION AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE REQUIREMENT OF THE OTHER PROVISION SHALL GOVERN."

(2) *ARTICLE 100. DEFINITIONS.* DELETE THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING "AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION (AHJ)." AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING, "THE AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION IS THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 3.101(A)(2) OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CODE.

(3) *SECTION 210.12. ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER PROTECTION.* ADD EXCEPTION NUMBER 3 TO SECTION 210.12(B) AS FOLLOWS: "EXCEPTION

1 NO. 3: IN EXISTING DWELLING UNITS, ARC-FAULT-CIRCUIT-INTERRUPTER  
2 PROTECTION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR NEWLY INSTALLED 120 VOLT SMOKE  
3 DETECTORS WHEN INTERCONNECTED FROM AN EXISTING SMOKE DETECTOR  
4 CIRCUIT.”

5 (4) *SECTION 230.71. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DISCONNECTS.* IN SUBSECTION  
6 230.71(A), DELETE "FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION," THROUGH THE END  
7 OF NUMBER (4).

8 (5) *SECTION 240.21. LOCATION IN CIRCUIT.* AMEND SUBSECTION 240.21(B) BY  
9 ADDING EXCEPTIONS IN BOTH SUBSECTIONS (B)(1) AND (B)(2) AS FOLLOWS:  
10 "EXCEPTION: IN METER ROOMS, THE CONDUCTORS WITHIN THE AUXILIARY  
11 GUTTER THAT SUPPLIES THE METER SHALL NOT COUNT AS A PART OF THE  
12 TOTAL LENGTH."

13 (6) *SECTION 250.52. GROUNDING ELECTRODES.* ADD THE FOLLOWING TO THE  
14 BEGINNING OF SUBSECTION 250.52(A)(3), "CONCRETE-ENCASED  
15 ELECTRODES": "EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT,  
16 THE PRINCIPAL GROUNDING ELECTRODE FOR A NEW STRUCTURE IS A  
17 CONCRETE ENCASED ELECTRODE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS  
18 SUBSECTION."

19 (7) *SECTION 310.5. MINIMUM SIZE OF CONDUCTORS.* ADD THE FOLLOWING AT THE  
20 END OF THIS SECTION: "WHETHER SOLID OR STRANDED, A CONDUCTOR  
21 SHALL NOT BE SMALLER THAN NUMBER 14 COPPER, NUMBER 12  
22 COPPERCLAD ALUMINUM, OR NUMBER 6 ALUMINUM OR ALUMINUM ALLOY."

23 (8) *SECTION 334.10. USES PERMITTED.* AMEND THIS SECTION BY:

24 (I) ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (4) AS FOLLOWS: "(4) IF SUBSECTIONS  
25 (1) THROUGH (3) DO NOT APPLY AND THE DWELLING OR STRUCTURE  
26 IS EQUIPPED WITH AN APPROVED FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM, A  
27 MULTIFAMILY DWELLING OR OTHER STRUCTURE NOT EXCEEDING A  
28 TOTAL OF 4 FLOORS, OR AN UNSPRINKLERED STRUCTURE NOT  
29 EXCEEDING 5,000 SQUARE FEET TOTAL AREA."; AND

30 (II) RENUMBERING SUBSECTION (4) AS (5).

31 (9) *SECTION 334.12. USES NOT PERMITTED.*

- 1 (I) IN SUBSECTION (A)(1) DELETE "AND (3)" AND SUBSTITUTE "(3), AND  
2 (4)";
- 3 (II) DELETE SUBSECTION (A)(2); AND
- 4 (III) RENUMBER THE REMAINING SUBSECTIONS AS (A)(2) THROUGH  
5 (A)(9), RESPECTIVELY.
- 6 (10) *ANNEX H. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.*
- 7 (I) THE PROVISIONS ONLY OF SUBSECTION 80.9 ARE HEREBY ADOPTED.  
8 THE REMAINDER OF ANNEX H IS SPECIFICALLY AND INTENTIONALLY  
9 NOT ADOPTED.
- 10
- 11 *Section 4. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County,*  
12 *Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.*